

Gun violence in our country has become an urgent daily crisis and we in Connecticut need to invest more to save lives.

Gun homicides are on the rise. As a retired teacher from Weston I watched in horror when teachers and babies were slaughtered in Sandy Hook and still not enough definitive action has taken place.

Someone is murdered in Connecticut every three days with a gun. The Governor's bill (SB-16) is a welcome call for a Department of Health to establish a gun violence prevention program. However, much more can be done by passing HB -5397. this will ensure a full time staff in DPH to work on preventing gun violence.

States around the country have similar offices with dedicated staff and we need one here as well. The States has resources too allocate \$5 million called for tin this bill as it has received \$6.3 billion from the American Rescue Act.

Thank you

Judy Stone